



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

March 1, 2006

TO: Local Health Officers  
Immunization Coordinators

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Annual Public Sector Vaccines for Children (VFC) Recertification

The VFC Program and the Immunization Branch thank you for participating this past year in the VFC Program. We appreciate your efforts to ensure that children in your community are fully immunized. It is a federal requirement that each health department site, as well as your outside providers must renew certification in this program annually. This includes nonprofit community health centers, schools, Head Start Centers, etc. that receive VFC vaccine from the local health department.

This year's renewal process will be slightly different due to the implementation of the Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). One of the project's main objectives is to consolidate and centralize distribution of publicly purchased vaccines throughout the United States. It is expected that a national vaccine distribution system will be in place by September 2006.

For your health department, this will mean that all vaccines (except influenza vaccine) will no longer be shipped to you from our depot in Richmond. Instead, vaccines will be drop shipped directly to each of your individual clinics and outside providers by a selected national distributor(s). Therefore, each of these sites will be required to complete a set of the enclosed VFC Provider Forms in order to continue to receive, store, and administer publicly provided vaccines. This set of forms will replace the "Supplemental Health Department Listings" and "Outside Provider Agreements" for each of your outside providers. If you believe that you have a current outside provider that may have difficulties in receiving direct drop shipments or discover that they do not have the capability to storage vaccine, please contact your Field Representative for guidance.

Please refer to the attached Assistance Sheet to complete the enclosed forms. We are asking for health departments to collect and return completed forms for each health department and outside provider site. Forms are due to the VFC Program by **April 3, 2006**.

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If you have any questions about the recertification process, please contact the VFC Program office directly at 1-877-243-8832.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Enclosures

cc: DHS Immunization Branch Field Representatives